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S C H E M E

Humbly offered, for making

R-l-g-n and the *C-rg-y*
useful.

W I T H T H E

Author's Observations

O N T H E

Cause and Cure of the *Piles*:

A N D

Some useful DIRECTIONS about
wiping the POSTERIOBS.

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A

S C H E M E

Humbly offer'd, for making

R--l--g--n and the *C--rgy*
Useful, &c.

SEVERAL modern Writers have endeavoured to wound Religion, through the Sides of the Clergy; but have hitherto met with the Contempt they deserved, although, I must confess, Religion is thereby sorely hurt; for, indeed how was it possible the good Men could spare any of their Thoughts about Religion, at a Time when all their Wit was scarce sufficient to defend themselves against the daily Persecutions of the Profane?

For my own Part, I always looked upon Religion as a very good Thing; and am now about to consider it, not as a Politician, but as a Christian; in Hopes I may set it in a proper Light, by making

it useful to Mankind, (as it was at first design'd,) by stripping it of the Superstition, with which it is at present miserably incumbered.

I can, indeed, by no means allow, that the present Practice of it is of any Use, (except to the Physicians and Apothecaries,) as confined to a Set of Prayers, and a Sermon in a damp House, close shut all the Week, and consequently full of noisome and unwholesome Vapours, exhaled or transpired through the Earth, from the numberless dead and putrifying Carcases lodg'd within, and close about the Walls of the several Churches in this Kingdom; which Practice, as it was introduced by *Popish* Superstition, might have been very wholesomely abolished by that religious Prince *Henry VIII.* of pious Memory, at the same Time that he suppressed the Abbeys and Monasteries in these his Dominions. It is to be presumed (in Excuse for that Neglect) that his Devotions were mostly performed within his own Chapel; and as he was a zealous warm Man, and sometimes impatient of Advice, that the Prelates of those Days did not think it proper to mention the above Particulars; which, however, cries grievously for Reformation.

The wise Heathens in *Greece* and *Italy*, and many other Parts of the World, after
burning

burning the Dead was disused, had burying Places a good Distance from large Cities ; no doubt to keep the Air, which in great Cities is too confin'd and thick, from being vitiated or contaminated by the Putrefaction of dead Bodies, than which nothing can be more pernicious or detrimental to the Health of Mankind.

I was myself, in my younger Days, a great Frequenter of Churches on *Sundays*, which threw me into many Disorders. Once I got a most violent Flux, and was forced to go out of Church, which frightened my Friends very much ; for it is said, that Sickness got on a *Sunday* is commonly mortal ; however, by a Dram or two, and a good Fire, I soon recovered. Another Time, at *Christ Church* in the Commissioners Seat, I was seiz'd so ill with the Piles, that I thought of nothing less than a Fever : However, that I might not charge myself with any Neglect of my Health, I repaired instantly to one Mr. ---, a noted Surgeon in --- who applied a cooling Plaister, which gave me present Ease ; by repeating which three Days, and the Application of a *Leech*, I recovered ; however, as at that Time I did not suspect that my Distemper was contracted in Church, I went to Prayers as usual, and had many Returns of the Disorder ; and as the Plaister made me
walk

walk as if I was be - - - ; on the contrary, to this Day, whenever I think of the *Leech*, I fancy I feel him crawling round my Backside. I had Recourse to a Friend, who assured me, he had laboured under the same Disorder; and at the same Time advised me to avoid going to Church as much as possible, and never to make Use of a publick *Bog-House* ; for that the unwholesome Vapours settled on the Seats at Churches, and which arise from the fetid Odure in *Bog-Houses*, penetrated the *Anus*, at that Time expanded by performing its Office; that a Corrosion being made on the *Anus*, by certain pointed nitrous Particles in vitiated Air, forcibly impelled upon that tender Part, made it susceptible of the lubricating Moisture, which in the Explosion attends the Excrement, and being of a saline or acrimonious Quality, (in Taste like Tobacco-Juice, as I have been told by curious Enquirers into Nature,) very often occasion'd those Tumors, which the Learned call the *Piles*.

I took my Friend's Advice, and have, I thank God, enjoy'd my Health very well of late; indeed, if *Sunday* is a fine day, I take my Wife and Children sometimes to a Country Church, when I can hear of one with broken Windows, or a Roof out of Repair; though we most commonly

commonly spend *Sunday* at Home, where I make one of my Boys read *Æsop's Fables*, *Raynard the Fox*, or some other Book of Morality.

I must not forget to tell you, that I once thought to cure the PILES by wiping my Bottom with *Poetry*, another Time with the Writings of a certain great *Physician*; but I found the Doctor who advised me to it was a Quack; and that any Piece of clean Paper will do, provided you begin just at the *Os Sacrum*, and wipe downwards, which gently closes the Orifice, and keeps out the Cold.

As I have profited myself by the above Rules, I think, I am, by the Laws of Humanity, obliged to publish my *Observations* for the Good of my Fellow-Subjects, and must at the same Time affirm, That, notwithstanding the general Opinion to the contrary, I do seriously think *Religion* and the *Clergy* may still be of Use, and modestly hope they will concur with me in this my *Scheme*.

I would humbly propose, That whereas the several Churches and Church-Yards in the City of *Dublin*, have been found, by many Years Experience, to abound and be filled with unwholesome Damps, cold and moist Dews, noisome, fetid, and pestilential Vapours and Exhalations.

Causing

Causing the *Piles, Dysentery, Vertigo's, Spleen, Phrensy, Hysterick Vapours,* and many other Distempers, to the Prejudice of the good People of *Ireland*, and manifest Damage and Loss to his Majesty, by depopulating this his loyal Kingdom for preventing of like Evils for the future, That from and after the Day of the said Churches and Church-Yards be locked up, and walled about in such Manner, that it shall be impossible for Man, Woman, or Child, to get within Side the Walls of the said Churches or Church-Yards.

Nevertheless, as *Religion* is a Part of the Constitution, which we can't do without, I would have certain Eminencies, within three Miles of this City, mark'd out for Groves ; in the Midst of which there may be a Temple built in the Form of a ----, or any other Shape the People shall judge proper, supported by Pillars, and open on all Sides, to keep the Air clear and healthful. To these Groves and Temples the People may repair on *Sundays* or Holidays, which will contribute much to their Health, and the *Clergy* may officiate, I think, in the present Manner ; for I can't join in Opinion with the Citizens of *London*, for pulling down Christianity to establish *Williamitism* ; not but that it might serve ; but I am against Innovations

novations, and I really think, as Christianity was left by the benevolent and righteous Founder, it would still answer the End of Religion in a wiser Nation than *Ireland*.

However, if a Change is determin'd, it is but a Step from Christianity to *Williamitism*; and as the Ceremonies observ'd and perform'd in Commemoration of that *Hero*, and the other divine Lawgiver, are much the same, it is not doubted, but all good Christians, at least Protestants, will readily agree in the Transition, and the same *Clergy* might still serve in the new *Religion*, the Rights being so very like.

To prevent Schisms, which are always of dangerous Consequence, if any Person will be so silly, as still to adhere to Christianity, or worship in a particular Manner any other *Hero*, I am for a Tolleration. *As to the late King JAMES, he ruined all his Friends; and on the Whole, was so despicable a Mortal, that I dare venture to affirm, he'll have no Worshipers*; but if the *Irish* Natives may have any Qualms of Conscience, with respect to King WILLIAM, and rather chuse to worship the Statues of *Brien Boirambe*, (who is said to have been a very good and wise King,) or any other *Hero*, an-

tient or modern, let them be indulg'd by all Means, (for common Observation informs us, that tender Consciences by Indulgence are found to grow harder.) Also, the *Quakers* may have their *George Fox*, or *William Pen*, provided always that such Statues be set up, and Worship perform'd in the *Country*; and that no Man be admitted to serve the King in a Post of *Honour* or *Profit*, till he has past the Test of drinking the *glorious Memory of King WILLIAM* in a *Bumper*, and be able to produce four of his Neighbours to swear, *That, to the best of their Belief, he had done so for six Months last past*; the same Ceremony, after getting a Place, to be perform'd before the *Equestrian Statue* on *College-Green*, or before a Statue of that *Hero*, or in a Temple dedicated to his Worship in some other publick Place, for which I shall give my *Reasons*, when call'd upon, or requir'd so to do.

But to return to my *Scheme*.

There being a great Scarcity of Timber, for many Uses in this Kingdom, notwithstanding the several good Laws to enforce the planting Timber-Trees, I would propose, That the inferior C—y, Cu—s, Parish C—ks, and Sextons, might be oblig'd to spend the Week-Days in dig-

digging, planting, and fencing in the Ground near the Temples or Churches, (in which Work they may follow Mr. *Lawrence's* Directions, till better can be had,) the *Bishops* may supervise them, and the *Archbishops* make triennial Visitations, to see that they are always regularly conducted; for which Services they should all continue on their present Establishment.

Was this *Scheme* carried into Execution, what a noble Simplicity of Manners, and generous Disdain of an unmanly Complaisance to ill Men in Power, would soon shine out in that learned Body, and by Consequence descend to their Inferiors; so that within the Compass of a few Years, the most malicious Tongue would not be able to tax them with *Ambition, Pride, Luxury, Superciliousness, Covetousness*, or any other mean Arts to ingratiate themselves with great Men, their Misses, or Valets; which evil Reports are too commonly propagated by the wicked Part of the *Laity* at present; though I confess they are all groundless, for ought I can see, and as I have heard credible Persons of that learned Body say.

Till this desir'd Reformation is accomplish'd, I am humbly of Opinion, that the *Clergy* may be permitted, during their attending the Levees of the Great, to wear

such *Lay Habits* as they please; which might, perhaps, give them an Opportunity of making their Court with better Success, and in some Measure of escaping the Eyes of the malicious and censorious, in case it should be necessary to compliment a great Man with their Company over a Bottle at an unseasonable Hour; *and notwithstanding the ingenious Mr. Dryden's Motto in his Spanish Friar, I am of Opinion, that a red Coat and Cockade countenances Vice better than a black Coat and Band*; at least, this *Scheme* would transfer the Scandal to the Gentlemen of the *Blade*, and lessen the Load *which the Wicked endeavour now to throw another Way*.

I think I have now sufficiently made out my Proposal; and as the *Clergy* would by this *Scheme* be truly useful, no *Layman* would murmur at paying the Tithes, or other Ecclesiastical Dues, (*which under the present Management, are looked on as a grievous Burthen, and as so much most unprofitably thrown away*).

Provided always, That the Timber-Trees so planted shall be for the Use of the Parish, or Union, where planted, and by no Means be called or deemed sacred, or to be put only to religious Uses; for
it

it is hoped, under the new Regulation, there will be sufficient Laws prepared, to guard against Superstition of all Kinds ; otherwise, one hundred Years hence, or perhaps sooner, if the Timber so planted should be fit to cut, the *Clergy* may tell our Posterity, that it is Sacrilege to put the said Timber to any save religious Uses ; that they themselves are the only Judges in spiritual Matters ; so that it may be a Crime to believe their Senses, or to make Use of their Reason : This, I say, may happen in a large Course of Time, should the *Clergy* degenerate, or *Priestcraft* prevail, which possibly may happen, although we have no Reason to complain of it at present.

I shall add one Word or two more, which is, That I could wish the new Worship diversify'd with Songs and Dances, which I think would increase the Number of Votaries, encourage the younger People of both Sexes, and warm their Devotions, at present very languid ; *but this I submit to better Judgment*, although if there was Occasion, I could quote a royal Precedent for this Proposal.

In like Manner other Pieces of Ground, two or three Miles distant from Town, might be enclosed for Burying-Places, and planted about with *Cypress*, *Yew*, *Fir*,
Rose.

Rosemary, and other strong-scented Trees, Shrubs, and Herbs, unless the more decent Custom of burning the Dead shall be restored, which perhaps won't be politick, till Wood becomes plentier in this Kingdom.

Advertisement.

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And inasmuch as several young Converts have been too apt to shew
their

their Swords of late, as most Childred do new Bawbles, it is ordered, That a Padlock be put on each of their Swords for five Months; next after the Commencement of such Licence ; we think necessary, therefore, to advertise, That there will be a Parcel of very handsome large Sword-Knots prepared with all convenient Speed, to be wore with, and cover the said Padlocks.

F I N I S.

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*But still the more you strive t'appear,
You prove to be the wretcheder;
For Fools are known by looking wise,
As Men find Woodcocks, by their Eyes:
Hence 'tis that 'cause you've gain'd o' th' Col-
lege,*

*A quarter Share, at most, of Knowledge,
And brought in none, but spent Repute,
Y'assume a Power as absolute
To judge, and censure, and controul,
As if you were the sole Sir POLL;
And saucily pretend to know,
More than your Dividend comes to;
You'll find the Thing will not be done
By Ignorance and Face alone.*

HUDIBRAS.

*Many of my Daughters have done gloriously;
but BETTY excelleth them ALL!*

Mother OXFORD.

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